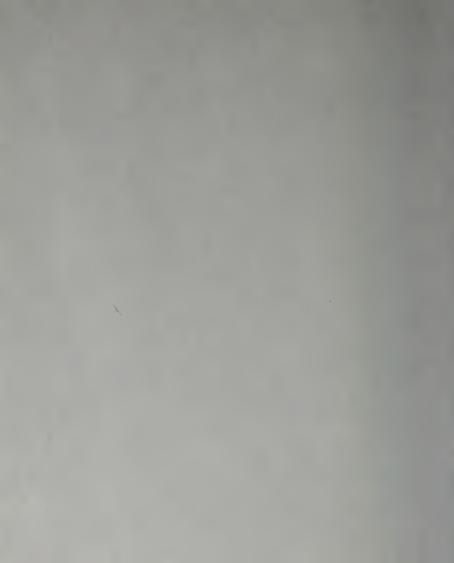
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The Reverse Side of the Seal of the United States

AND ITS SYMBOLISM



By

CELESTIA ROOT LANG, Editor & Publisher,
DIVINE LIFE MAGAZINE,

614 Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago, III., U.S.A.
5 Cents a Copy.







DEDICATED.

To all those who contribute to The Thomas Paine Monument Fund: Monument to be erected in Lafayette Square, Washington, D. C.

The Seal of the United States,

(REVERSE SIDE)



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AND ITS SYMBOLISM



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MAY 25 1917

GET INTO LINE! GET INTO THE TREND OF SELF-EVOLUTION!

GET INTO THE TREND OF THE PIONEERS OF THE SIXTH RACE!

GET INTO THE TREND OF THOSE WHO ARE READY FOR THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES!

"altar" spoken of by Isaiah the Prophet as in Egypt upon the borders thereof,—and its crowning white cap-stone and glory, the stone and shepherd of all Israel, Christian and Jewish, on the one side"—that is, the reverse side.

Now it needs one, who is not only versed in the ancient lore, but who has himself *come into* this symbolism, to be able to read the reverse side of the seal. The reverse side must have been designed by a mystic, one versed in symbolism.

'Egypt,' stands for the *physical* man; and coming out of Egypt, as did the Israelites who had been in bondage in Egypt, means a higher state of evolution, and they were led out of this state of bondage (to the lower self) by Moses, who was born an Israelite, but who was brought up an Egyptian, and versed in all the Egyptian lore.

Moses, was the man appointed to lead the children of Israel out of the flesh-pots of Egypt, into the 'promised land,' or in other words, out of the physical, into the spiritual; and it will be observed, that after the children of Israel came out of Egypt they sojourned 40 years in the wilderness under the training of Moses before they were prepared to cross the Jordan, the divide between the purely physical man and the spiritual man.

Now comes the question; why was Moses not allowed to lead the children of Israel across the Jordan into the promised land?

The solution is this: Moses had *not* evolved the higher spiritual faculties. Moses was a law-giver; he was also a great magician, showing that he had developed all the lower group of psychic faculties, including all the Egyptian sorcery and magic. Then Moses belonged to the base of the pyramid. The distance between the base of the pyramid,

and the crowning white cap-stone, the spiritual man, the higher group of psychic faculties, is symbolized in bible history as "the Jordan," and in Theosophic parlance, "The Voice of the Silence" as "the moat," and it is often referred to as the "great divide"; when one has passed this 'divide' he stands on the "threshold of divinity." Then to cross this 'divide,' and to attain the crowning white cap-stone and glory required a spiritual leader; one who had already attained a spiritual level, and one who had received the "white stone with a new name engraved thereon, which no one knows but he who receives it."

Therefore, Moses' work as a leader was finished, and Joshua was appointed to lead the children of Israel across the "Jordan" to the "promised land" symbolized by the crowning white cap-stone and glory.

Now we will look at the reverse side of the Seal of the United States and compare its symbolism with that of the Wisdom Religion.

The base of the pyramid stands for the Quarternary, the four lower principles, and the crowning white cap-stone, represents the triad or trinity—the three higher Principles—Atma-Buddhi-Manas; and the evident 'divide' or moat between the two is also called Antaskarana, you have to

sacrifice the personal self, the four lower principles,—to the SELF impersonal and thus destroy the "path" between the two—Antaskarana—the path of communication or communion between the personality and the higher Manas or Higher Self.

Here then is the connecting link between true Theosophy and the reverse side of the Seal of the United States, and all true Theosophists ought to be able to see this. It is true that "the knowledge of symbolism and heraldry, considered of old to be a part of an education, had passed from the halls of learning" before H. P. Blavatsky's time, "and with it the true understanding of the bible and its mysticism." I have always felt that H. P. Blavatsky was deficient as a student of the bible; and this accounts for the lack of harmony between the H. P. B. theosophy and the bible and Jesus' teaching, which has, in the hands of Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater, led to the assertion that "Jesus never existed," and to the rejection of Jesus and the twelve apostles.

Not so strange as it might seem, that at the time of the world's fair at Chicago, that the two paintings of the Seal, obverse and reverse, that the reverse side was turned to the wall, and the obverse, or eagle side, only to be seen by the passing throng.

But there is a spiritual law governing this,—the passing throngs were not ready for the reverse side of the Seal. But the time will come, if not now at hand, when the white stone will become the head-stone of the corner of our government; and herald her responsibility, her destiny and her mission to the world in proclaiming a *new* Religion in which all spiritual currents flowing from every religion shall meet in the perfection of the white stone teaching of individual spiritual unfoldment. Each one must attain for himself the white stone and its glory.

Here again the reverse side of the Seal connects with Theosophy for America, in other words *true* Theosophy, the religion for America, having neither dogma nor doctrine and which will apply directly to the evolution of the individual as the temple in which the soul gains its experience and attains its—Liberation.

The reverse side of the Seal of the United States, with its pyramid and crowning white cap-stone and glory, must needs be rejected, until such a time as a few individuals, at least, are sufficiently *spiritually* developed to comprehend its full significance; and are ready and able to *stand*, and each in himself *become* a spiritual Joshua. As one has

already said, "I think we do not any of us realize the wonderful work the DIVINE LIFE has done, and what will yet result from it. I believe most fully that it has ushered in the finest type of Theosophy this world has yet seen."

THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES:

AND ITS SYMBOLISM.

II.

E SEE that everything in the Universe has an obverse, or material side, and a reverse, or spiritual side,—the hidden or invisible.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus if it was right to pay tribute to Cæsar, and they showed him a coin; Jesus taking the coin asked, Whose superscription is this? and they said, Cæsar's; and Jesus replied, Render unto Cæsar, (the material) the things which belong to Cæsar; and unto God, (the spiritual) the things which belong to God, thus making a distinction between the material and the spiritual.

The same with the law of evolution; the obverse side is the evolution of the material and physical; and the reverse side, the law of reincarnation, is the evolution of the spiritual side; but where shall we begin? as evolution, the obverse and reverse sides extend back into the dim and misty ages; when the morning stars sang together, might express in symbol the obverse side of creation; and when the Sons of God shouted for joy, the reverse side: as Nature is dual.

As said Krishna; When any existence whatever is produced, know O son of Bharata! that it exists by this *union* of matter and spirit; and he who sees the Supreme Lord, (the Self) dwelling alike in all beings, the Imperishable in things that perish, sees indeed.

In Theosophy we have the obverse and reverse side, though all theosophists do not claim this, as the obverse or material side is all they seem to see; yet, there are Theosophists who claim, at least, that there is a spiritual side to theosophy, although in practice they ignore it.

The symbol on the cover of DIVINE LIFE, the serpent swallowing its tail, is the symbol of the spiritual side of evolution; and the interlaced triangle, the *union* of matter and spirit, also symbolizes the *union* of the Higher and lower Self; the double lined triangle represents the Higher

Self, and the one with the heavy line the lower self; and within the interlaced triangle, (the six-pointed star) the all-seeing eye, or "third eye" (the opening of the pineal gland) which symbolizes the *completion* of the *individual* temple of man.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of the living God?" Yes, but we first have to build that temple, each individual for himself, because it is a spiritual temple; and the Builder of that temple is your own Higher Self: You, the personal self, have to gather the material, through your own experience, and your own Higher Self as the "Master builder," and as the re-adjuster builds it into the spiritual body, thus forming the temple, which is not made with hands; and it is a living temple because it is built out of live material, the very essence of your being; and it is a continual becoming until it is completed, and it continues alive, It never dies. It, is that immortal part of you which, if not completed in one incarnation, passes on to the next incarnation and continues the building until the temple, or spiritual body, is completed, then, there is no further need of the physical body, and no further need of reincarnation, as the soul has completed its evolution in matter and gained its—liberation from matter.

Paul expresses the same fact in this wise: "When the mortal shall have put on immortality,—death is swallowed up in victory!" There is no more death for the individual because for him there are no more incarnations.

As Krishna says;

"He who truly knows my birth (in himself) and this divine work of mine, comes never more to birth again, when he quits the body: he comes to me, Arjuna!"

Now we come to the obverse, or eagle side of the seal of the United States—which has been amply set forth in Grace Kincaid Morey's article,—The Seal of the United States, and Its Message"—which is the symbol of the material; Government, Commerce, and all treaties and intercourse with other Nations, as well as its official use on all United States documents. Now this would seem to be all that was required of the Seal of the United States.

Then, how did it happen that there should be, at that time, a reverse, or spiritual side of the Seal of the United States, with its Pyramid, and its crowning white cap-stone and glory? It certainly did not 'happen,' but how was it that it should be designed at all? Who was the designer? and what was the spirit back of it? It was to express this very thing, the *union* of matter and spirit; and all

authorities upon bible symbolism agree that the white capstone belonged to an age yet to come, the culmination of man's existence here. Then, it would stand for the completion of individual evolution, and—liberation from matter. There could be no higher design, and it could only be embodied in symbol, but of course it would have its critics:

"That the device adopted by Congress in 1782 is of so elaborate a character and withal so allegorical; while as to the reverse side, however artistically treated, it can hardly fail to look otherwise than as the dull emblem of a masonic fraternity." If it is a masonic emblem, why have not the masons rescued it from its obscurity? Why have they allowed the white cap-stone and the crown of glory to be rejected, disowned, and the crown of ages to be laid away in its box? Evidently the symbol of the Pyramid and its white cap-stone does not belong to the Masonic Fraternity! Where then does it belong? It belongs to a more spiritual Order, having neither dogma, doctrine, nor ritual, not secret, but sacred, and which will apply directly to the individual as a completed temple in which is housed his immortal soul. We find it too high for any of the fraternities, it must needs be purely spiritual, then, religious! but what is Religion;—but the spiritual evolution of manand this is all the Wisdom Religion claims.

The most plausible meaning of this triangle is spiritual. The triad forming this emblem or triangle is, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, (in Sanskrit, Atma-Buddhi-Manas). And thus the triangle on the Seal is to show emphatically that the eye in the center is the eye of trinity.

The "glory" or rays of radiant light is also here intended to symbolize Divinity. It is, as is well known, greatness, splendor, and glory of Providence; and its significance on the Seal is the Eternal Light of Wisdom with which the Supreme Architect will guide, and lead the colonies.

And, read aright, in the eternal light of Wisdom, it means to the individual, the all-seeing eye, or third eye, with which the supreme builder,—your own Higher Self—will guide and lead you in the—New Order of Ages—which is to be born. As the meaning of the Latin motto, Novus Ordo Seclorum signifies; in conjunction with Annuit Coeptis—meaning "God has favored the undertaking," or, God has prepared the way, in the law of the spiritual side of evolution.

This was designed and written 100 years before very many individuals had reached the level of evolution where its significance could be understood and applied; and we believe that it refers to the Sixth Race which at that time was yet to arise.

All those who have attained, or will attain the white capstone, triad, or trinity in this present incarnation, belong to the Sixth Race, (I do not mean the sixth sub-race) and when they have attained the One, the 'above' they live therein; they have become immortal, or in other words they have put on (conscious) immortality, there is for them no more death, after they have passed out of this present incarnation.

In the reverse side of the Seal, we find the perfect symbol of the Seven Principles, the Triad and Quarternary of Theosophy. We not only find Theosophy for America! but also AMERICAN Theosophy for the United States; a Theosophy that was symbolized on the reverse side of the Seal nearly a hundred years before H. P. Blavatsky "brought Theosophy, The Wisdom Religion, (from India) to America," which is yet to proclaim the new religion in which all spiritual currents flowing from every religion shall meet in the perfection of the White Stone Teaching of individual responsibility.

The one obstacle, or rock of offence, which stands in the way of the *union* of all Protestant churches, is the belief in the *vicarious atonement* of Jesus; that is, that Jesus died for humanity! When Christians come to see that *each individual must work out his own salvation*—that is, his liberation from matter; the lesser dogmas, church government etc., will not stand in the way of the union of the churches, in sentiment at least.

I do not seem to be able to close this sketch of the reverse side of the Seal and its symbolism, without again referring to the designer. We find in the history of the Great Seal that William Barton, M. A. was the one who originated the present device of the reverse side; and we find this sentence, "That every design submitted by Mr. Barton depicted the fundamental principles of the government—yet to be established."!

We see in Mr. Barton only the facade, or the instrument; that, if he himself was not a Mystic or Seer, then, a Master stood behind him. Who was this Master, visible or invisible? Who was the true designer of the reverse side of the Seal? It could have been none other than—Thomas Paine, a Mystic and Seer!

We find in his "Rights of Man," that he had in his minds's eye; "A new order of Ages," "The heaven's approve"; and this is the clue that leads me to believe that

Thomas Paine was the originator of the design of the reverse side of the Seal. But why was his name not mentioned? Because he was at the time under the cloud of ecclesiastical disfavor!

In the Declaration, from which freedom sprung; the natural rights of man are specified as Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness—and religion left out. At that age, no one could have done this but Thomas Paine. Religion had battled against progress, against justice, against the rights of man for the space of seventeen hundred years. Paine raised his pen and stopped the onward sweep; and he dared to frame a free government, pure from the dross of dogmatism; and it is further said, "that, upon the Great Seal of this mighty nation, Paine left the memorial of his presence."

Quoting from an article on Thomas Paine which I wrote in 1903 or 1904:—and read before the Secular League in Washington, D. C.:—

[&]quot;The pen is mightier than the sword,"
Twas the prolific pen of Thomas Paine
That thrilled the blood of every soldier;
And fired his brain against subjugation.
Paine's "Crisis" broke on the world like Jove's thunder.

Paine's "Common Sense" was the rallying cry That led a nation to birth and victory; His words: "These are the times that try men's souls." Became the watchword of our army. Paine's "Common Sense" turned the scale in favor Of separation from the English Crown: His "Common Sense," lit the torch to the pile Whose blaze burned away the filial bonds Between Great Britain and America! Must the merit and service of Thomas Paine; Continue to glide down the stream of time Unrewarded by his grateful?? country?..... I stand here on this platform and proclaim Thomas Paine the greatest soul of his age; I place his name first in the ranks of fame. This tribute comes from a woman's pen To supplement the eulogies of men; I am willing to face pulpit or throne And stand by this, my conviction, alone ..."

I still feel the thrill of the thread that binds the name of Thomas Paine to the reverse side of the Seal of the United States; and that "THE NEW ORDER OF AGES," which "he had in his mind's eye" will prove to be the

Sixth Race of which we, The INDEPENDENT THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, are the Pioneers.

The New Order of Ages.

The New Order of Ages presupposes that there has been an order of ages which has completed its cycle; and a New Order of Ages is to be ushered in.

What is the principal factor in the Old Order of Ages? In examining the past history of the ages, we find that the principal factor is ecclesiastical, that it was the dominant feature. Then, if the old order has completed its cycle; ecclesiasticism is the factor which is to be left out of the New Order of Ages. And Thomas Paine was the first to recognize this fact and carry it into execution; and for this offence he was "rejected of men" and disowned by the officials of the United States Government, and his name left in obscurity.

But we thank God that Thomas Paine was not left without a witness, that upon the Great Seal of this mighty nation he left the memorial of his presence. And now when ecclesiasticism is making great strides to again subjugate and dominate Eagle-land, it seems a fitting time to unveil the reverse side of the Seal.

Paine, like Lafayette, left his country and came to this

and fought for liberty; Paine, was the first and main instigator of Independence and the separation of the Colonies from the British Crown. To every school-boy the name of Lafayette is familiar, and stands high on the scroll of fame! But where is that of Thomas Paine? Unknown to school-boy, and unknown to fame. The slow tide has swept along year on year, and in this "age of reason" no hand is raised to turn the tide of public opinion.

Then, it is to the reverse side of the Seal that we are to look for the explanation of what the New Order of Ages is to be.

In the old dispensation, or, Moses and the Prophets, to which Jesus often referred, God was always spoken of as the Almighty, or, God Almighty, and was worshipped as such. There seemed to be no relationship between God and man. In the Christian dispensation Jesus brought God nearer to man and was the first to speak of God as the Father, or, our Father, but worship of the Father was still the main idea which was transferred to the worship of Jesus as the only Son of God; and man occupied a very low level, but as time rolled on and man evolved he has gradually ascended to a higher spiritual level until he can no longer be dominated by ecclesiastical rule. He had be-

gun to stand out as an *individual*; and to feel individual responsibility; he was nearing that level where he would know that *each individual* must work out his own salvation or liberation; that he cannot depend upon any vicarious atonement. This as a Seer, Thomas Paine foresaw. But how was this idea—so far in advance of the age—to be made known to the people? how could it be handed down through the ages? There seemed to be but one way; and that was to embody it in symbol on the reverse side of the Seal; there it would be safe, for it could not be read until such time as a few individuals, at least, had attained that level; neither was it to be adopted by a Fraternity with closed doors;—it was for the people.

The white cap-stone, the completion of the pyramid, stands for the New Order of Ages, in which the individual raises himself to the degree where—"I and my Father are one."

A New Order of Ages

"THE HEAVENS APPROVE"

III.

T WE THE THE PERSON OF THE PER

HE New Order of Ages, which Thomas Paine had "in his mind's eye," would mean to the secular reader only the ideal, the eye of the intellect, but that is only the surface meaning:

the real meaning is "the third eye," the eye of the Seer, (the awakened pineal body). No individual ever attains Seership, or, faultless vision, until the opening of the pineal body has been attaned; then follows the lofty soul-consciousness of the seer, whose mystic "third eye" now becomes "a window into space"; and it was through the "third eye" that Paine saw-A NEW ORDER OF AGES—one hundred and forty years in advance of the age in which he lived; and this fact alone would be sufficient to pronounce Thomas Paine a Master! What is a Master? but a Great Soul! or, an advanced Soul! one who has completed his self-evolution and attained the white Stone, the mark of—liberation,—and who again incarnates for a special purpose only. Such is Thomas Paine to all those who are near enough to his level to see with the eye of a seer.

Now let us look at the triangle on the reverse side of the Seal of the United States, and its crown of glory, which encloses the "all-seeing eye," the eye of Providence, whose real meaning is the "the third eye."

The triangle is the symbol of Trinity, three in one, and one in three, the three sides being equal and inseparable. There is no other geometrical figure which will express the Trinity,—Father, Holy Ghost and Son,—or, in Sanskrit,— Atma, Buddhi and Manas. The Trinity is also expressed in terms of the Logos, first, second and third Logos. In the beginning was the Word (Logos); and the Word (Second Logos) was with God and the Word was God; and the Word (Logos) was made flesh, or incarnated, and the three in one are inseparable; but the creed makers and secularists think they can separate the Trinity as easily as they can separate one material object from another; for instance, the Unitarians discard the Trinity and recognize only the Unit, that is, they remove Jesus from the Trinity. or supposed God-head, and make Jesus an ordinary man. Whereas, Jesus, as an individual is not and never was a part of the Trinity, as the Trinity is purely spiritual; and even the Third Logos, or Manas does not wholly incarnate. "The three that dwell in glory and in bliss ineffable, now

in the world of Maya (incarnation") have lost their names. They have become one Star..." "When thou hast passed into the seventh (Atma), O happy one, thou shalt perceive no more the sacred three (symbolized by the triangle) for thou shalt have become that three thyself." When thou hast attained that level thou wilt see with the "third eye," or the mind's eye, the eye of the Seer.

It is the spiritual or reverse side of Thomas Paine's immortal work, which has been ignored, that we would bring to the front; as he has no longer need of eulogy, which to me at this time seems like "sounding brass and tinkling cymbal." At the time I wrote my article, "Thomas Paine, Patriot, Reformer, and Martyr," I did not know of the reverse side of the Seal of the United States; and had I known it, I would not at that time have been able to see its spiritual significance, or to read its symbolism aright.

However, at that time I made a strong plea for Thomas Paine's books to be placed in every library, and his part in the Declaration of Independence to be placed in our school books, side by side with that of Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Madison and Monroe as one of the framers of the Declaration of Independence. The need of this is made apparent by the fact that one of our Presidents,

even, was ignorant of the fact that Thomas Paine did more than any other one in bringing about the separation of the colonies—then thirteen states, from Great Britain and declaring the Independence of the United States.

I also made a strong plea for a monument to Thomas Paine to be placed in Lafayette Square, Washington, D. C., quoting from that article:

"May the Secular League as one body, as one man, stand for right and justice, until the wrongs done to Thomas Paine are righted, "in the land his genius defended, and under the flag he gave to the skies," and they see him stand in statue of stone, perhaps in sight of the Capitol's dome. In his hand "Age of Reason" and "Common Sense," at his feet "Crisis" and "Rights of Man," pointing his finger—in the name of Reason—to ecclesiastical bands as treason to the highest development of man."

However, I had neither influence nor means to help carry out the plan of erecting a monument to Thomas Paine at that time. The reverse side of the Seal has again brought the subject forcibly to my mind and the plan of the monument before "my mind's eye." The base is to be an exact reproduction of the Pyramid on the reverse side of the Great Seal of this mighty nation on which Paine left

the memorial of his presence. It is to be four-square composed of thirteen courses of stone, to represent the thirteen states; and on the top a platform on which will stand a statue of Thomas Paine; in his hand Crisis and Common Sense, at his feet, Rights of Man and Age of Reason; and this monument is to be erected in Lafayette Square, Washington, D. C.

One brother has already offered \$500.00 to start a fund for the erection of the monument, and he adds: that "Congress should take this matter up. It would be most fitting to have a monument to such a great and clear visioned soul."

Thomas Paine's vision of A New Order of Ages, can be ushered in only so fast as the scroll unfolds and individuals develop the higher principles. Many of the old forms of faith and superstition must be given up, and the individual learn that he must depend upon—himself,—that he must work out his own conscious immortality while in his physical body.

Many of Thomas Paine's admirers, who think of him only as the Author-hero of the American Revolution, will be surprised to learn of the spiritual side of his marvelous work, as I was to see the cut of the *reverse* side of the

THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

Seal of the United States and read its spiritual significance. And we see the coming together of the spiritual currents; how the undermeaning of the teachings of Jesus and Krishna and the true in every religion, eternal life's pure waters, come together and mingle in the stream of A New Order of Ages. Let Christian Science, New Thought and other modern cults bring up the rear; they will find the culmination in the white cap-stone, the symbol of the teaching of individual spiritual unfoldment.

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THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

Each contributor will receive one year's subscription to the Divine Life Magazine,—the Official Organ of The Independent Theosophical Society of America,—and New Order of Ages;—also, one copy of the Pamphlet, The Reverse Side of the Seal of the United States, and Its Symbolism, by Celestia Root Lang.

TO-DAY.

The 20th of December, 1916, the Second Anniversary of the founding of The Independent Theosophical Society of America, which has been waiting as though unfinished; we now affix the apex or culmination in the White Capstone,—The New Order of Ages—which to-day is incorporated in The Independent Theosophical Society of America, and which has become the head of the corner. Therefore, we place it first, as true Theosophy is one of the spiritual currents which coming together form—The New Order of Ages.

The New Order of Ages!



THE INDEPENDENT THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Founded December, 20, 1914.

By Celestia Root Lang

PRESIDENT FOR LIFE: CELESTIA ROOT LANG, Editor and Publisher of the DIVINE LIFE MAGAZINE, the Official Organ of THE INDEPENDENT THEOSOPHICAL MOVEMENT.

CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER; Harry Edward Richeimer, appointed by the President.

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